

## TRAINED NURSES AND TRAINING SCHOOLS.

BY MARY GAY BORRISON, IN THE "METHODIST."

In our advanced civilization and christianity we find that nurses are common ignominy, untrained and concealed; they often interrupt the physician's treatment by disengaging his orders and substituting their own notions. Hitherto, none would be nurses, except the poor and ignorant; yet the nurse, because always present, has more influence in a family than the doctor. Women need to be trained as nurses under suitable instructors. Their special responsibility consists in carrying out the orders of the doctor, and constantly attending with intelligent observance upon air, food, light, etc., etc. for the patient; and besides all this, marking with great care the various changes in the patient and reporting them accurately to the doctor.

A few schools have started already in this good work. About a year ago one was opened in connection with the Bellevue Hospital under the direction of the State Charity Aid Society. In the track of schools and Hospitals abroad, Bellevue Training School with a lady at its head who had been thoroughly trained in Europe and was eminently fitted to undertake the new enterprise.

Let us visit the Nurses' Home, No. 314 E 26th street, New York. It is a four-story brick house. As you enter every thing looks inviting. Through a winter's day, the doors are thrown open through the house; in the parlor a bright fire burns in the grate; on one side is a library of books and papers, on the other side a musical instrument; all looks cheery, pleasant and home-like. A young lady music teacher has kindly offered to come once a week to give singing lessons, that the nurses may learn something of the art; which David used to dispel the malady of King Saul. The school numbers twenty nurses. Sister Helen Bowden, Superintendant of the Training School, a lady as housekeeper and two servants. Many more pupils have applied than they can accommodate. They hope soon to buy the adjoining house and then to receive double the present number.

From the Nurses' Home we go to Bellevue Hospital. Sister Helen comes in bright and cheerful, takes a six weeks old baby from its young mother, tosses it up and down as she goes through the wards, large, clean and sunny, and asks, "will any one buy a baby?" The wards look pleasant and comfortable; seeing others sick seems to rouse emulation in the struggle for getting well. Each has some advantage over the misfortunes of her neighbor. The hopeful earnest work of the nurses whose best strength and skill are given to the methods of care, makes the patient feel the alleviation of pain and the success of remedy is as much looked for by the doctor and nurse as she herself can wish. And for the nurses one year's experience in the hospital is worth a great deal. There every disease except such as are contagious, is treated; such as lung troubles in their manifold manifestations, rheumatism, various forms of heart disease, Bright's disease—so fearfully common—dis of epilepsy and paralysis, amputation, excision of joints—tumors, fractures—any amount of them—cancer cases, fractures—any amount of them—tumors and obstetrics. In this cot is a patient upon whom the doctor operated for hip joint disease—a bad case which the doctor gave up to die; but the indefatigable nurse kept up courage and work, and owing to good nursing the patient lived.

The work of the training school is arranged systematically. Those who serve as night nurses have the day for sleep. After dinner at 7 in the evening, they take the place of the day nurses, who leave at 8. Each nurse has one afternoon a week off duty, but many of them are so interested in their work, they ask as a special favor to be allowed to remain and not leave their patients, as many a lady of leisure and pleasure will not leave her novel, fan of work or embroidery.

Sunday each nurse has a half day to herself. In the training school there are two classes, head nurses and probationers. The probationers are put for two months to night nursing and ten months to day nursing. At the end of the first year they are promoted to such work as they have proved themselves best fitted to do. The training in four months in medical cases, four months, surgical, two months for night duty and two months what each is best fitted to do.

Each nurse is paid \$10 a month and all expenses the first year, and the salary is increased the second year in proportion to the kind of work each proves herself capable of doing. Candidates must be twenty one and not over thirty five years of age; must present a certificate from a clearly man and physician of a good character and sound health. The nurses, after their six and nine months' training, are doing remarkably well, owing to the care taken to select those of superior intelligence.

A similar school has been started in Boston, which has given great satisfaction and shows fair fruit so far. One also has been started in New Haven, and one somewhat different in Brooklyn.

What an invaluable acquisition, when sickness enters our homes, to know there is besides a good doctor, a competent nurse to be obtained. Then the man of business goes to his toil, of whatever sort, feeling he leaves his wife and child in more competent hands than his own. He knows if he wants a bookkeeper he wants one that understands the work and not the novice; and in the work of saving life there must be certainly as much labor and time expended to qualify the individual who assumes the post as to fit a man to keep books. Where do we want unskilled labor? Nowhere. Then of all places in the wide world do not allow it to serve in the sick room.

Florence Nightingale stands at the head of this system of trained nurses. She says: "Nursing is an art and requires as hard a preparation as sculptors' or painters' work, for what art is to be compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? The great want is women fit to do the work." In "Homes and Hospitals," published by Hurd & Houghton and written by Author Gilman, the motto of the lives of two noble women was, "God's will be done in me and about me," and they devoted their consecrated lives to this very art of nursing the sick. As you read this intensely interesting history of their work, you say these women are saviors of humanity. No one can disdain a calling to which such women give their lives.

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FREELEY—CRANE.—In Montclair, at the residence of the bride's parents, on the 21st of April, by Rev. J. K. Berry D. D. Mr. Samuel Freeley of Elkhornwood, V. T.—Miss Mary C. Crane, daughter of Matthias Crane Esq.

## DIED,

KOONZ.—On Wednesday evening, April 20, of scarlet fever, Thomas V., second son of Philip J. and Annie C. Koonz.

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